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Signature: 

(Jeffrey S. Sharp)

Dated October 1, 2002

Docket No.: 28911/36128/US
(PATENT)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**In re Patent Application of:
Alison Hopkins

Application No.: 09/485,245

Group Art Unit: 1655

Filed: March 27, 2000

Examiner: C. Wilder

For: LABELLING COMPOSITION AND METHOD**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

Box AF

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated May 1, 2001 in which all claims (1-6) were rejected over one or more of 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Reconsideration and allowance of all claims is solicited for the following reasons. This response is filed with a two-month extension of time to October 1, 2002.

AMENDMENT**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claim 1 to enter the limitation of claim 2 as follows and cancel claim 2.

1. [AMENDED] A labeling composition comprising a random mixture of oligonucleotides which are 6-mers to 8-mers, said composition present in a dry state wherein the composition further contains at least one of: a polymerase enzyme; a supply of nucleotides for chain extension; a labeled nucleotide; a dye; a stabilizer and a buffer.